FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   CONTACT: WENDY GORDON
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GABRIELINO HIGH TEACHER HONORED AT STATE CAPITOL

SACRAMENTO - Gabrielino High School teacher Derek Yuill, was honored today at a ceremony at the State Capitol that recognized the efforts of high school teachers from throughout California. State Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) selected Yuill to represent the 21st State Senate District because of his hard work and devotion to the Gabrielino forensics team.

For the past eight years, Yuill has guided the Gabrielino High debate team to numerous victories on both the state and national level. He was named National Speech Coach of the Year in 2003 and for the past five years his team has been ranked among the tops in the nation.

Senator Scott escorted Mr. Yuill to the awards ceremony today in Senate chambers where Yuill was given a certificate recognizing his efforts. The Senator praised the teacher for his years of dedication and hard work.

"Derek Yuill has devoted numerous hours and a great deal of effort into making Gabrielino High's debate team one of the best in the nation," declared Senator Scott. "I am proud to name him Teacher of the Year for the 21st State Senate and to recognize his commitment to his school and his students.   In a time of heated debate over the direction and funding of our public schools, Derek Yuill stands out as an example of the kind of enthusiastic teacher working hard to improve the talents of our students and our schools."

Mr. Yuill first came to the attention of Senator Scott's office when he asked for help in transferring his out-of-state teaching credential into a California credential. At that time, Senator Scott wrote, "I believe he is the very type of teacher we want to encourage to teach in this state."

The South Pasadena resident said he was overwhelmed with the award from Senator Scott. He attributed his success to "talented students and an incredible school that supports me and the team."

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